

Measuring compassion, concern and commitment levels

First Sunday of Advent

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

The year of Luke is a year for compassion, concern and commitment.

1. Compassion means to suffer with others.
 2. Concern means to discern what is important, and to set one's priorities.
 3. Commitment means to be engaged, to join with others.
- If your compassion, concern and commitment levels have been low lately, here are two tales, Lukan in style, which might rekindle your flame.

JENNIFER

The first is the story of a 15-year-old girl who lives near Toronto. Her story is told by means of ten questions that she thinks are the "Ten Best Questions in the World."

1. Where was I born?
2. Who is my father?
3. Why did he leave?
4. Who do I take after most in our family?
5. What did I do when I was a kid that I don't remember?
6. What was it like when you were growing up (Mom)?
7. Who was my Mom's first real boyfriend?
8. What was school like back then (Mom)?
9. What did you do on the weekends for fun (Mom)?
10. What teenage pressures did you have, and how do they differ from now?

JULIO

The second story is of Julio, a 31-year-old Uruguayan who is seeking refugee status in Canada. Julio left Uruguay in April of 1989 during the government of Strongman Stroessner. He's been living illegally in Canada since then. About six months ago he was convinced to enter the process to obtain official refugee status in Canada.

At present he's living in Toronto with his girlfriend and a three-week-old baby.

He lines up every morning before 6:00 a.m. hoping to get a day of casual labor, that pays \$5.00 an hour.

He's also lined up for the Sit Program, designed by Immigration Canada to assess refugee claimants. Julio will receive either a claim or an order of removal.

Listen to his own testimony:

"In July 1987 I was elected general delegate of the food worker's union. This position made my situation in the company even more difficult and dangerous. The company offered me money and a better job if I abandoned my union activities. I could not sell my principles so I refused again. At this time the labour conflicts became acute and more dangerous.

"Employer and government united and acted together to stop the worker from making gains to improve their standard of living, better working conditions and



Religion and Reality

by Jim Ryan

respect for human rights. We demanded that police brutality against the worker be stopped.

"The union president and general secretary were kidnaped and taken outside the capital, beaten and tortured for five days. Other union leaders disappeared without a trace, some appeared

Bible Digest

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:10

Humility begins with us. We must humble ourselves before the Lord. Are you willing to submit to the Lord in all areas of your life?

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 2:4

Christians are you more in love with pleasures and comfort than you are in love with Jesus? If so, there is need for revival in your heart.

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12

The rise of sin leads to cold, unresponsive hearts. Reject sin and selfishness and allow the love of the Lord to fill your heart.

"And said, Verily I say unto you. Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3-4

The "bigshot" attitude won't get you into Heaven. We must humble ourselves before the Lord to be saved. Have you been saved?

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21

Words are not enough to get us into Heaven. We must have a genuine conversion and change of heart.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38

You can't outgive the Lord. Give to the Lord and watch what He will do.

drowned, others died of "heart attacks" as reported by the police.

"I was constantly threatened with death by telephone. Callers said, 'We are the authority here. You will die soon. We are following you, watch out. Your time is short.'"

I feared so much for my life that in April of 1989 I left everything behind and came to Canada.

ADVENT

T.S. Eliot writes in East Coker, "In my beginning is my end." Advent always stresses The End at the beginning of the liturgical year. Luke also stresses the end, but he doesn't expect an imminent end. Next Sunday's gospel reading holds up hope for all who suffer. Luke suggests that those who suffer will not be forgotten. Keep those Advent candles of joyful expectation aflame.

the HERALD
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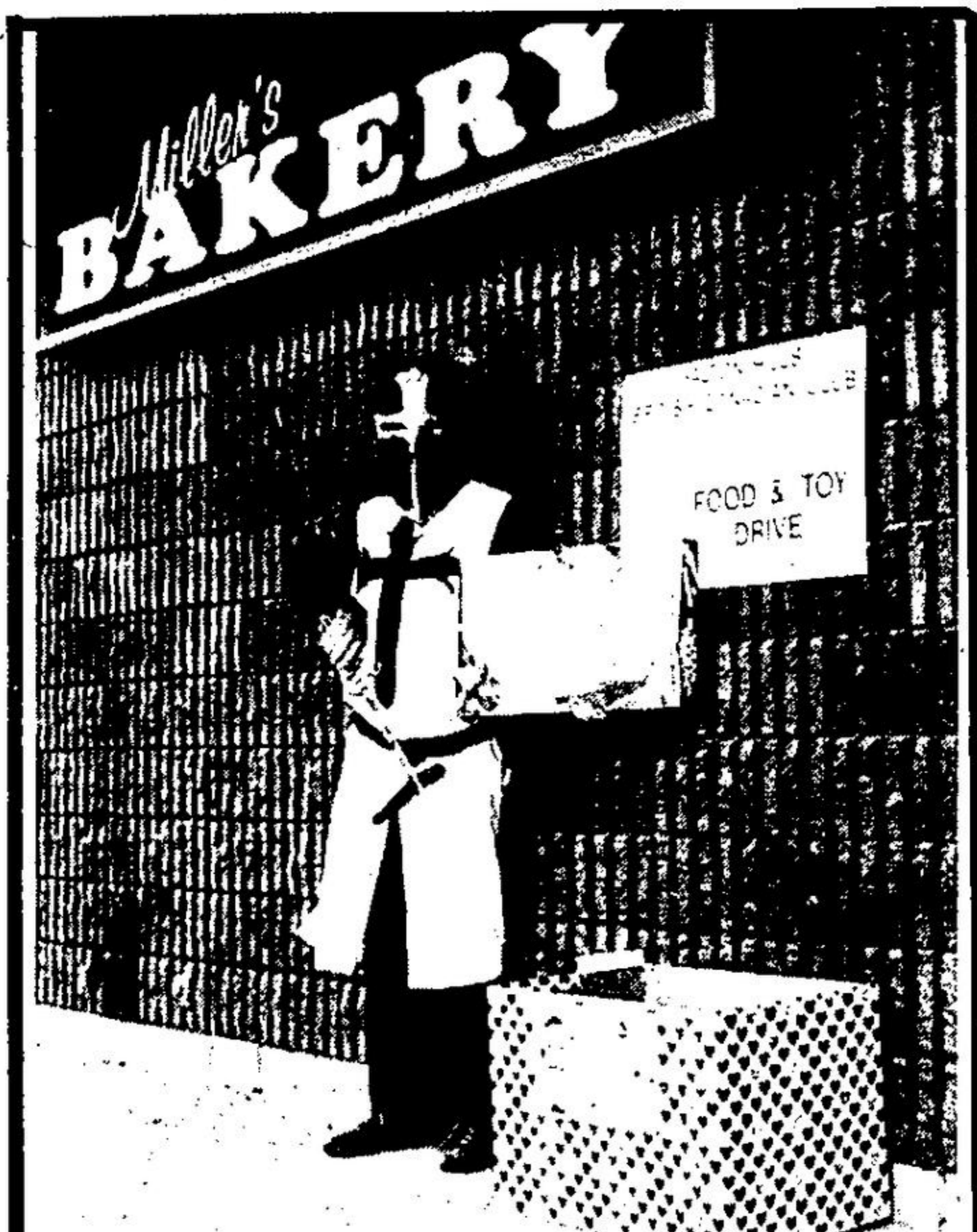
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Food Drive donations

It seems the word is getting around. Long time support of The Halton Hills British/Canadian Club, Sir George, slipped by Miller's Scottish Bakery recently to make a donation to the Club's Annual Christmas Food/Toy Drive. Individuals or groups can still make a contribution to this year's drive by dropping by Miller's Scottish Bakery, 330 Guelph St., Municipal Trust, downtown, or the Terra Cotta General Store. To arrange for a pick-up contact Dave at 873-2934 or Ken at 877-0939. The need is there, please give generously. (Photo submitted)

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